Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05596 021611Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 IO-13 MCT-01 USSS-00 //097 W

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O R 021536Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0032

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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CONFIDENTIAL BRUSSELS 05596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CASC, AO, CG, BE

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: FLNC LEADER REACTS TO DEATH OF METHODIST MISSIONARY GLEN ESCHTRUTH

REFS: (A) LUBUMBASHI 368, (B) LUBUMBASHI 375

FLNC LEADER RAPHAEL MUMBA MADE PERIODIC VISIT TO EMBASSY JUNE 1.
AT END OF AN UNEVENTFUL CONVERSATION HE ASKED ABOUT A BRIEF
NEWS ITEM IN BELGIAN PRESS ON THE REPORTED DEATH OF AN AMERICAN
MISSIONARY IN SHABA. WE GAVE HIM A SANITIZED RUN-DOWN ON
DR. ESCHTRUTH'S DEATH ALONG LINES REFTELS. MUMBA BECAME
VISIBLY UPSET, STATING THAT MISSIONARY MUST HAVE BEEN
"ASSASSINATED" BY FAZ OR MOROCCAN ELEMENTS. HE SAID THAT AS A
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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05596 021611Z

LUNDA, HE WAS INTIMATELY FAMILIAR WITH THE WORKS OF ALL FOREIGN MISSIONARIES IN THE KAPANGA-SANDOA AREA. THE LAST REPORT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE FLNC OCCUPIED AREA INDICATED THAT MISSIONARIES WERE CONTINUING THEIR NORMAL ACTIVITIES WITHOUT ANY DIFFICULTIES OR INCONVENIENCES. HE STRESSED THAT THE EX-GENDARMES WERE WELL AWARE OF THE GOOD WORKS OF THE AMERICAN METHODIST MISSIONARIES, MANY HAD BEEN EDUCATED IN

THEIR SCHOOLS AND TAKEN CARE OF IN THEIR HOSPITALS AND IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE TO HIM THAT ANY EX-GENDARGE WOULD IN ANY WAY HARM - OR AGREE TO THE HARMING OF - ANY MISSIONARY IN SHABA. HE STRESSED THAT THE "ASSASSINS" SHOULD BE PUNISHED AND SAID THAT HE WOULD GO BACK THROUGH FLNC AND TSHOMBE FAMILY CHANNELS AND SEEK TO DETERMINE WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO DR. ESCHTRUTH. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD INFORM US AS SOON AS HE RECEIVED ANY INFORMATION BUT CAUTIONED THAT HIS CHANNELS WERE SLOW AND A RESPONSE COULD TAKE ABOUT TWO WEEKS.RENNER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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Subject: SHABA INVASION: FLNC LEADER REACTS TO DEATH OF METHODIST MISSIONARY GLEN ESCHTRUTH

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, CASC, AO, CG, BE, US, FLNC, (ESCHTRUTH, GLEN)

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